

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 8, 10-12, 15-19, 22, and 24-28 are currently pending in this application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-5, 10-12, 15-19, and 24-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Okazawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,459,496) in view of Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,828,462, herein Hashimoto); and Claims 8 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Okazawa in view of Hashimoto, and further in view of Kimura (U.S. Patent No. 6,334,719).

With respect to the rejection of Claim 1 as unpatentable over the combination of Okazawa and Hashimoto, Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection. Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

the power-supplied portion selection unit is configured to contain the power-supplied portion selection signal in an internal parameter request signal with respect to the image forming device concerned, and to transmit the internal parameter request signal, containing the power-supplied portion selection signal, to the image forming device concerned, so that the image forming device concerned simultaneously receives both the internal parameter request signal and the power-supplied portion selection signal.

The outstanding Office Action relies on Hashimoto to describe these elements of Claim 1.

In a non-limiting embodiment of the claimed invention, an internal parameter request signal contains the power-supplied portion selection signal. Fig. 20, of the present application, shows an exemplary format of an internal parameter setting request signal. As shown in Fig. 20, the internal parameter request signal includes both internal parameter setting request information and power supplied portion selection information.¹

¹ Specification, page 56, line 23 to page 57, line 3.

Figs. 21A and 21B, of the present application, further show exemplary details of the power-supplied portion selection information and internal parameter setting request information included in the exemplary internal parameter setting request signal shown in Fig. 20. Fig. 21A shows the power on/off selection of the operation portion in the first bit and the fixing portion in the second bit. Fig. 21B shows that exemplary internal parameter information is a predefined command code that indicates the fixing temperature.²

Hashimoto does not disclose or suggest the claimed internal parameter request signal, containing the power-supplied portion selection signal. Hashimoto merely discloses command codes that are sent to a printing device that indicates which of two sleep levels the printing device is to be set at. Hashimoto discloses that sleep mode designation is a 2-byte command. At the first byte, a command code 80H is sent. At the second byte, a predetermined command code, which designates the sleep level, is sent. Fig. 8 of Hashimoto discloses the configuration of the second byte. The first four bits are set to zero, and the 5th – 7th bits form a three-bit binary code that designates a sleep level (i.e., 000 designates sleep level 0, and 001, designates sleep level 1).³

Hashimoto provides no description or suggestion that the sleep mode designation command is contained in any other signal, let alone an internal parameter request signal.

Furthermore, if the outstanding Office Action is interpreting the first byte of the sleep mode designation command (80H) as the internal parameter request signal, this position is respectfully traversed. The 80H command code, which is not defined by Hashimoto, is disclosed by Hashimoto as part of a single command.⁴ Hashimoto does not disclose a separate internal parameter request signal, containing the power-supplied selection signal.

² Specification, page 57, line 20 to page 58, line 12.

³ Hashimoto, col. 6, line 61 to col. 7, line 3.

⁴ Hashimoto, col. 6, lines 57-59.

In addition, Okazawa and Kimura do not cure the above-noted deficiencies in Hashimoto.

In view of the above noted distinctions, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 (and Claims 2-5, and 8 dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Okazawa, Hashimoto, and Kimura, taken alone or in proper combination. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 10, 14, and 24 are similar to Claim 1, and the Claims 10, 14, and 24 (and Claims 11, 12, 16-19, 22, and 25-28 dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Okazawa, Hashimoto, and Kimura, taken alone or in proper combination, for at least the reasons stated for Claim 1.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 8 and 22 further patentably distinguish over Okazawa, Hashimoto, and Kimura. Claims 8 and 22 recites, *inter alia*, “a power-supplied portion display unit displaying, on an operation/display portion, power-supplied portion information that indicates which of the portions of the image forming device are set as being the power-supplied portions.”

The outstanding Office Action relies on Kimura to disclose these elements of Claims 8 and 22. Kimura merely discloses a control panel 104 that includes an LED 123. LED 123 indicates that a power save mode is in operation. Kimura does not disclose or suggest a display unit that indicates which portions of the image forming device are set as being power-supplied portions.

In view of the above-noted distinction, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 8 and 22 further patentably distinguish over Okazawa, Hashimoto, and Kimura, taken alone or in proper combination.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 25-28 further patentably distinguish over Okazawa, Hashimoto, and Kimura. Claims 25-28 recite, *inter alia*, “after reading or updating of internal parameters of the image forming device is completed, a

second power-supplied portion selection signal is transmitted from the data communication device to the image forming device concerned so that the supplying of the power from the main power source to all the portions of the image forming device concerned is forcefully inhibited.”

The outstanding Office Action relies on Okazawa to describe these elements of Claims 25-28. In support of its rejection, the outstanding Office Action cites to col. 2, lines 27-31 of Okazawa. This portion of Okazawa merely describes that host unit selects a printer in a stand-by state before selecting a printer in a sleep state.⁵ This selection of a stand-by state printer does not inhibit power to all portions of the image forming device. Furthermore, there is no description or suggestion in Okazawa that this selection signal is sent after reading or updating of internal parameters of the image forming device is completed.

In support of the rejection of Claims 25-28, the outstanding Office Action also cites to Fig. 7, and col. 6, lines 52-60 of Hashimoto. However, Hashimoto’s disclosure of a command to have a printing device enter into a second sleep mode does not disclose or suggest inhibiting power to all portions of the image forming device. Hashimoto discloses that in the second sleep mode, that the fixing unit and the cooling fan are deenergized.⁶ Hashimoto does not disclose or suggest that the supplying of power from the main power source to *all portions of the image forming* device is inhibited. Furthermore, there is no description or suggestion in Hashimoto that the sleep mode designation command is sent after reading or updating of internal parameters of the image forming device is completed.

In view of the above-noted distinction, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 25-28 further patentably distinguish over Okazawa, Hashimoto, and Kimura, taken alone or in proper combination.

⁵ See, e.g., Okazawa, col. 13, lines 14-20.

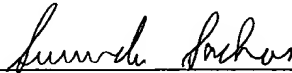
⁶ Hashimoto, col. 7, lines 1-2.

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Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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